GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4596
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Increase in Judges in High Courts
P. Shri Nagarajan

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to increase the number of judges in High Courts during the year 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not increasing the strength of High Court judges across the country?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): After receiving the approval from the State Governments and the High Courts and with the approval of the Chief Justice of India, the Judge strength of the High Courts has been increased from 906 in 01.06.2014 to 1079 as on date.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 2.1.2017 in the matter of of Imtiyaz Ahmed case, the Department of Justice has forwarded a copy of the interim report of the National Court Management System (NCMS) Committee to all State Governments and High Courts to enable them to take follow up action to determine the required Judges Strength of the district judiciary based on the NCMS report. It has inter-alia, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the Subordinate Courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "Judicial Hours" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, this Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach i.e. disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions.

Further, the Supreme Court in its Order dated 20.3.2017 in W.P. (C) Nos. 295 and 624 of 2016 has stated that there are number of unfilled posts of Judges at various levels and therefore increasing the number of posts of Judges will arise only after filling up of these existing vacancies.